

Tread Lightly! is a national organization sponsored in part by manufacturers of motorcycles and ATVs. To achieve its mission

Tread Lightly! promotes responsible

use of trails during outdoor motor sports recreation.

The web site address is: www.treadlightly.org

Call toll free: **800-966-9900**

The Tread Lightly! Pledge

Travel and recreate with minimum impact

Respect the environment
and the rights of others

Educate yourself, plan
and prepare before you go

Allow for future use of the outdoors,
leave it better than you found it

Discover the rewards of
responsible recreation

Tread Lightly! treats the subject of
ATVs in streams this way:

Streams are not Roads or Trails!!!!



Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202

Keep Mississippi's Streams Healthy with Responsible

ATV Riding.

Responsible ATV riding in Mississippi.

1. **Wear a helmet**, appropriate clothing and shoes for your own protection.
2. Stay off public roads and streets. ATVs are **Off-Highway** Vehicles.
3. Ride only on lands where you have permission from the landowner.
Trespassing in Mississippi is a **criminal offense**.
Background checks for jobs, school admissions, and financial aid may require disclosure.
4. **Never** ride down the channel of a stream. Traveling in a stream channel damages sensitive aquatic life.
Cross a stream slowly at a fording place where the trail intersects a stream.
Never use a stream for mud-riding.

Stream Ecosystem

Riffles are shallow, fast stream sections. Pools are deep, slower moving sections. Both sections provide important habitat for different life stages of fish, aquatic insects and other stream life.

Water quality in riffles is excellent due to high levels of dissolved oxygen. Many forms of stream life can be found on the bottom in riffles, including:

- Insect larvae that feed on algae and organisms associated with it.
- Juvenile forms of fish that use riffle habitat for feeding, such as:
 - a. Spotted (Kentucky) bass
 - b. Flathead catfish (tubby's, yellow cats)



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Darter

- Adult forms of fish specially adapted to living and feeding in fast water:
 - a. Darters- have fins specially modified for hugging the bottom in a fast current.
 - b. Madrioms- can bury themselves in gravel to ambush drifting prey.



Spotted Bass

Adult Flathead catfish (tubby, yellow cat). Juveniles utilize riffle habitat.



Todd Slack

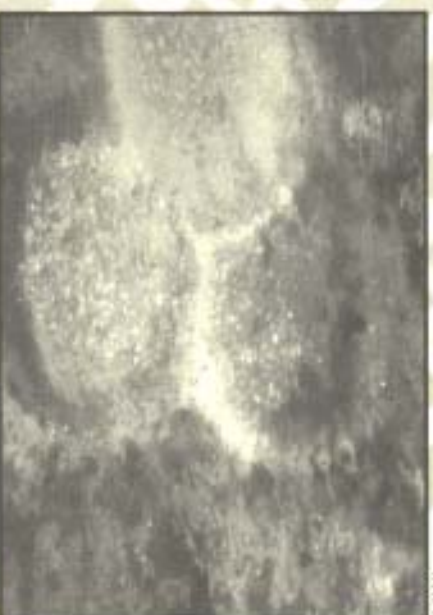


Jerry Lison

Northern Madriom

Riding ATVs in stream beds disturbs the bottom of riffles and disrupts these important habitats.

- **Sediment stirred up by fires** will settle over and **suffocate fish eggs** laid on the bottom.
- Sediment also suffocates the insect eggs and larvae that fish depend on for food.
- Tires grind gravel and sand stream-bottoms, crushing juvenile fish and invertebrates.



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Sunfish beds on stream bottom.

